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9 June 1986

Robert M. Gates, Esq.,
Deputy Director,
Washington, D.C. 20505.

Dear Bob:

By now you have no doubt seen the 2 June review of the Ranelagh book in the Washington Times while I have just received your letter of 30 May with your views about the book. The criticisms embodied in your letter I found cogent. Whether I could have used any of them is doubtful in view of your last paragraph caveat. Nevertheless I found them most useful. Probably I should have taken a little more space to admonish the author for his constricted view of Bill Casey,

The problem in book reviewing, unless you have loads and loads of space, is how to cover everything. It becomes a burdensome problem in reviewing a huge book of 624 pages. I had to decide for space reasons to ignore boobos such as: the reference to Neville Chamberlain as Head of State when he was merely Head of Government and it is the monarch who is H of S. Or Meany was AFL secretary-treasurer not general secretary; or that Jay Lovestone was in the OSS which was news to me or misspelling of names like Charles Wilson, Admiral Radford, Correa, Swiato; his ignorance of the onetime Communist monopoly power in French trade unions; his exaggerated feelings about George Bush. And so on. But I didn't think these and others were crucial errors.

Overall I thought it was a responsible book about the CIA by an outsider without access, especially when I think of what some former CIA executives like Thomas Braden have written having had access. So far as I know, Ranelagh has no intelligence background and what's more he's a foreigner, a Brit. Yet he has managed to write a balanced, understanding book about the problems of intelligence in a democracy and for that I applauded him. That he may have been less than generous to Mr. Casey is true but when I think of the sordid hostile attacks which have been made against the Director and the demands for his resignation from Republicans no less, I think Mr. Casey came out alright. As you indicate not only did Mr. Casey not get credit from the author for constructive changes, he doesn't get credit from others who should, you imply, know better.

As for your penultimate paragraph, I don't know how we're ever going to be able to prove that "Bill has had a pervasive, long-term impact on this place that will leave the country a far

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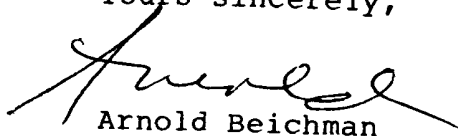
better, more tough-minded and more capable intelligence service than he and Ronald Reagan found." There is no more difficult problem in politics than finding empirical data to prove influence, let alone power. Perhaps when we meet again (in mid-September ?) we can go into detail about this with a view to possible or eventual publication if it were thought worthwhile.

I'm just back from a weekend meeting on the campus of the University of Alberta, Winnipeg, of the Canadian Association of Intelligence and Security Studies, headed by Professor Reg Roy, the University of Victoria military historian. CASIS was inspired directly by the Consortium for the Study of Intelligence.

The Newport, R.I. Naval War College meeting with Lehman, CINPAC Admiral Lyons opens 16 June and I will attend, the invite having finally arrived. The USSR in the Pacific will be the theme. Are you going to have anybody there in attendance ?

I appreciate your taking the trouble of writing me.

Yours sincerely,



Arnold Beichman